

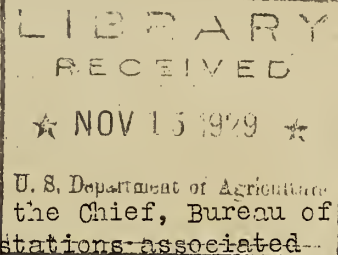
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THE HOUSEHOLD CALENDAR



A radio talk by Mrs. Rowena Schmidt Carpenter, Assistant to the Chief, Bureau of Home Economics, delivered through Station WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, November 1, 1929 at 1:10 p. m. Eastern Standard Time.

How do you do, Homemakers!

A good many weeks ago when the household calendar was new I took you on a sort of tour through the laboratories and kitchens of the Food and Nutrition Division of the Bureau. That first day I told you how we are solving in an experimental way some of the food preparation and nutrition problems that you homemakers face daily. Today I want to introduce you to the staff of the Textiles and Clothing Division, and tell you about the problems they are studying for you.

First of all you should meet Miss Ruth O'Brien who plans and directs the research studies in textiles and clothing. Miss O'Brien has laid out the work of her division in two sections. One deals with design and construction projects using textile materials in garments, curtains, and so forth. The work of this section is done in sewing and design laboratories. In the other section the fabrics themselves are studied, in scientific laboratories where chemical and physical tests are made. Laundering, stain removal, fading and wearing qualities of materials, the quality which we call the warmth of fabrics, --- these are the sort of problems studied in the section Miss O'Brien calls textile utilization and maintenance.

If you will imagine yourself travelling along with me, I will give you just a glimpse into each of the laboratories of the Textiles and Clothing Division. In the physics laboratory we find Margaret Hays. Miss Hays, assisted by Dorothy Ellis, who is a Textile Engineer, is making studies of the warmth promoting properties of materials made of wool, wool and cotton mixtures, and cotton only. You have read, perhaps, in recent years that the warmth of materials depends a great deal on the way the fabric is woven. Many thick, loosely woven fabrics hold air in the meshes of the weave; when this air held in the weave of the material is warmed by the heat of the body, it protects against the continued loss of body heat.

A second physicist, Dr. Melvina Downey, is studying the effects of the pressure and the heat of ironing on cotton materials. Some people believe that ironing is harder on clothing than washing or even harder than wearing. As many years as clothes have been ironed no one has ever before made a scientific study of ironing as it is related to wear.

Three chemists, Margaret Furry, Ruth Elmquist and Olive Hartley, are working on a few of the many chemical problems that have to do with the upkeep of wearing qualities of materials. The removal of stains of various kinds, the effect of certain temperatures in washing, materials and methods to use in replacing the finish in cotton materials after laundering (or in other words sizing and starching problems) --- these are some of the studies being made by the chemists in the Textiles and Clothing Division.

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When these chemists and physicists have had more time on their studies, the Bureau will be able to tell the homemakers of the country the advantages of different fabrics for different purposes, from the standpoint of economy, wearing properties, and suitability for one purpose or another. Even now we can offer you a bulletin on stain removal (Farmers Bulletin 1474) and one on home laundering (Farmers Bulletin 1497).

Going up to the second floor we come to the design and construction laboratories. Here we find Bess Viemont, Clarice Scott and their two assistants, who are working out designs for garments which show ways of using to the best advantage some of the fabrics now on the market. They construct garments following the designs they have developed, and then they have real people wear the clothing so as to be sure their designs are practical. As a result of some work done on women's clothing we have Farmers Bulletin 1530 Fitting Dresses and Blouses. A great deal has been done on children's clothing also. You may be interested in leaflet 26 on little girls dresses, leaflet 52, Suits for the Small Boy, and the article about a particularly satisfactory bib for little tots, The Self-Help Bib. I shan't tell you more today about the work on children's clothing because I want to have a whole chat with you about that very soon.

So good-bye, Homemakers, until next week.